

PAGE BLURRED
PAGE BARBOUILLÉE

C215282

A close examination of Standing Order 37 shows that it was drafted without considering the complex situation which would arise if amendments were moved to the motion of "no confidence". Under that Standing Order, a sub-amendment may or may not be an alternative proposition. If it is an alternative proposition it must be dealt with as a separate question and as a motion of Want of Confidence by itself. Mr. Coldwell's sub-amendment is not an alternative proposition, it is an addition to the amendment which it does not disprove. The House is called upon to decide first if the sub-amendment will be grafted on the amendment. The vote of "no confidence" sought can only be ascertained after this has been settled. This is shown by the next step in procedure, which, if the amendment carries, will be the question: "Shall the amendment as amended carry?" If the amendment does not carry, the House will divide on the main amendment. This will be the real motion of want of confidence. The Prime Minister spoke immediately after Mr. Graydon, but he has the right ex-officio, under Standing Order 37, to speak longer than forty minutes. Had he not that right, it would be proper and correct to ask if he was giving the Government's reply to the amendment, and if not, he could have been asked to conclude his speech after forty minutes because the Government is only entitled to one reply. ~~It would be unfair to allow only one speech over forty minutes to the Opposition and two to the Government.~~

The Minister of Agriculture was the first Minister therefore as contemplated by the Standing Order to reply to the amendment and the sub-amendment, and entitled to make a full reply on behalf of the Government.

This is the interpretation I have to give Standing Order 37, but I must say I am afraid it will result in a certain curtailment of debate. A sub-amendment, even if it consists in an addition to the amendment, may involve important charges necessitating a long presentation and a long reply. When debate lasts several weeks and a minister